

numbers had tailed off but specimens differed in colour from those of early summer, the pattern more variegated with a rusty medial fascia and brown basal fascia (comparable with pl. 23, fig. 190-2 of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*, 4). The last, worn specimens of more than 800 *oblitella*, were seen at the end of September. My light trap is situated at the edge of fields with a great deal of *Chenopodium* (fat hen) and it is possible that this is the local foodplant of *oblitella*; although a search of the *Chenopodium* for larvae was unsuccessful, signs of old, possibly Phycitine, larval damage were found. Adult *oblitella* were quite common in the *Chenopodium* in late summer. There now seems to be little doubt that this is a locally abundant resident species in West Essex along Thames-side; its distribution extends some way inland from the marshes and appears to be widening.

More than a dozen specimens of *Euzophera cinerosella* (Zeller) came to light in Rainham in 1976, most in mid-June but one on 30th August. The larva, recorded from *Artemisia*, has not been found. — Dr. GADEN S. ROBINSON, 21 Lakeside, Rainham, Essex.

OBSERVATIONS IN 1976. — 1976 proved as noteworthy in Buckinghamshire as elsewhere, the effect of the fine weather on lepidoptera being to produce migrants, extra broods and unusual appearances throughout. The first indication of things to come was the profusion of *Cupido minimus* Fuessly at West Wycombe on 21st May; unlike Wild (*Ent. Rec.*, 88: 260) I have always noted a second brood, at least partial, in this county and in Kent, and undoubtedly there was one on this occasion, though I was not in the area to observe it.

On 23rd May, *Vanessa atalanta* L. was seen for the first time, at Shillinglee, Sussex, while of the other migrants, all subsequently common, *Vanessa cardui* L. appeared in Hughenden Valley on 4th July, followed by *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. five days later. The two former species were both seen on arrival in the Isle of Eigg, Inverness-shire on 21st July.

On 28th June I arrived home pleased to have found a female *Lophopteryx cucullina* D. & S. in High Wycombe to be greeted by a triumphant "I've found a Hairstreak!" from my 11-year-old son. It proved to be *Strymonidia w-album* Knoch, found dying on the pavement; there are elms in the area, but the insect has not been previously recorded. Perhaps it had wandered some distance, for the hot weather was by now having its effect, and it was noticeable that *Maniola jurtina* L. was more common in the garden and visiting flowers more often than normal, while *Aglais urticae* L. had taken to flying in the cool of the evening. *Celastrina argiolus* L., not seen for several years, put in a welcome appearance at Habledon Lock on 18th July. After this I left for Scotland, where the weather was much less settled, but was able to observe *Erebia aethiops* Esp. in several 10 km. squares in the region around Loch Morar, from which it was previously unrecorded, along with other common species.